

FEDERATION NEWS SHEET

Monthly Bulletin of the World's Student Christian Federation

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1948

Issued from 13 rue Calvin, Geneva, Switzerland

Note to Editors of National Student Christian Movement Periodicals:

This information service is especially prepared for National S. C. M. publications. Please make use of it for the education of our membership in Federation matters. Credit notices are not required.

New Subscription Rates

For several years the annual subscription of *The Student World*, and the minimum annual subscription as a *Friend of the Federation* have been ridiculously low. These uneconomical rates were retained in order that once again after the war our literature might reach students and student leaders in every part of the world. But at its meeting in July 1948 the Executive Committee of the Federation decided that in fairness to the financial needs of our work new rates should come into force for subscriptions paid on or after October 1st, 1948.

The new rates are as follows:

The Student World, Annual Subscription: 8.50 Swiss francs; 10s; or \$2.00.

Friend of the Federation (Receiving *The Student World*, and *The Federation News Sheet*, and contributing to the funds of the W.S.C.F.), Minimum Annual Subscription: 17 Swiss francs; £1/-; or \$5.00.

Compared with similar international or national publications these rates are still on the low side. Please make every effort to retain your subscription at the new rate, when it falls due, and encourage others to do so. We do not think you will wish to do without *The Student World* and *The Federation News Sheet*, and we certainly do not wish to lose you as a subscriber!

R. C. M.

Headquarters Notes

Certain changes have taken place in the Officers and Staff of the Federation, and so it may be useful to give the following list.

OFFICERS

Robert C. Mackie	Chairman
Reinold von Thadden	Vice-Chairmen
Eleanor French	
Kiang Wen-han	
Luther Tucker	Treasurer
Hiel D. Bollinger	Deputy Treasurer

STAFF

Philippe Maury	Coordinating Secretary
Marie-Jeanne de Haller	Associate Coordinating Secretary
A. John Coleman	University Commission Secretary

Winburn T. Thomas

Far Eastern Reconstruction Secretary, based in Shanghai.

M. M. Thomas

Who is Programme Secretary of the Asian Leaders' Conference, December 1948, at present in Asia.

K. H. Ting

Who has been Chairman of the Missions Conference, and will be spending November to January in North America.

Bengt Hoffman

Who is on loan to the S.C.M. of China, based in Shanghai.

Keith R. Bridston

Who begins his work in a few months' time in relation to theological students.

Executive Committee and General Committee of the W. S. C. F.

The Executive Committee met from July 1st to 5th, 1948 at St. Catharine's, Cumberland Lodge, The Great Park, Windsor. Its principal decision was to accept invitations from the Student Christian Movement of Canada and the United Student Christian Council in the U.S.A. to hold a meeting of the General Committee in Canada, followed by a larger Federation Student Conference in the U.S.A., in August 1949.

Cantate Domino

The Federation Hymnbook, which has become well-known in ecumenical gatherings, is to be revised. This decision was made at the recent meeting of the Executive Committee, and a good deal of work has already been done. The editor of this revision is Helen Morton, formerly a vice-chairman of the Federation. It is probable that about thirty hymns will be omitted and about fifty added. Versions, translations, tunes, musical setting etc. will be examined. Comments and suggestions are invited from any reader of *The Federation News Sheet*; they should be addressed to the General Secretary of the W.S.C.F., 13 rue Calvin, Geneva. It should be clearly understood that the final decision as to the composition of the book will be made by a consultative group responsible to the General Committee.

Belgium

At the recent meeting of the Executive Committee the S.C.M. of Belgium was made a Corresponding Movement of the W.S.C.F., in accordance with the decision of the Federation General Committee of 1946. Jacques Lombard, the Secretary of the Movement, took part in the meeting, and reported on the developments since the war, and the present encouraging position. A special message was sent to Pierre Mahillon to whose devotion over the last ten years this happy result is due.

Russian S.C.M. outside Russia

From a report by Leo Zander :

... The first Conference of the R.S.C.M. in Germany took place at Moosach near Grafing, June 1-5, 1948, in a children's camp of the "Merciful Samaritan". The material conditions of the camp were a real symbol of the emigré life: a dozen of tents, a church and a refectory open to all winds (a cloth roof on wooden pillars) all this on a meadow in the midst of a huge wood, far from any human living and under a constant rain and dreadful cold.

The importance of the Conference was manifold. We had the privilege of seeing among us the Rev. Shchukin who is a member of the old R.S.C.M. which existed in Russia before the Revolution. In a sermon preached after the celebration he declared his joy of seeing the Movement not only alive but working inside the gates of the Church. "Our old Movement was highly inspired", he said, "but we lacked the fullness of communion, which can be reached only through the holy Eucharist. The Movement in emigration realized the great problem and grew to a real sacramental fellowship, the unity of which finds its foundation in the holy Communion"...

Students who were members of the R.S.C.M. in 1930 (in Esthonia and Latvia) grew now to religious leadership. Boys and girls who came into our circles without any knowledge of God and the Church are working now in most difficult and inappropriate conditions, building up by their own initiative the living community of Christ. This is the best proof of the efficiency of the R.S.C.M. work and of the fitness of its ideology and programmes. The renewal of this work in Germany restores also the "R.S.C.M. outside Russia" as a whole. Until this year we succeeded in organizing the work in France only (merely in Paris). Now we see the outspread of the post-war Movement in other countries: the work in Germany, among the D.P.s, most of whom hope to leave this country, cannot be considered merely as a local work. The inspiration of the Conference, the good news about the transfiguring force of the Church will be brought by these people everywhere they come. At the moment Germany is the best field for the seed of this idea. The plants and the fruit will grow overseas.

But there is also the Russian Movement in Germany with its heavy task of bringing help and comfort to those who will remain in this country. From this point the Conference can be considered as the beginning of an organized work with a Committee (one central for Germany and another, local, for Munich),

a travelling and organizing Secretary (Rev. G. Benigsen), a library and a budget which is drafted and has to be realised...

This message has been received from the Conference :

The first Conference of R.S.C.M. in Germany thanks you most heartily for your kind words and wishes, which were transmitted to us through Prof. Zander.

The Conference of about 100 members from different towns and D.P. Camps in Germany was a great event in the spiritual life of the third emigration. The interest for it was enormous but unfortunately the finance reform prohibited many students to make the travel... The enthusiasm of the youth is a real token for the future; the possibilities of the work in Germany are great...

The Conference greets you most heartily and asks you to receive in your heart and mind the new child of the World's Student Christian Federation.

Nigeria

From a report sent by the Secretary of the S.C.M. in Ibadan :

The most noticeable news to contribute from this end must be, I think, the very great help we are finding here in Ibadan in having four lively branches within reach of each other — namely, University College, Wesley College, Melville Hall and United Missionary College. Our ability to meet and stimulate and encourage each other has given a new spirit of effort to our branches internally and our corporate activities as well. Our main activity last term was the production on Good Friday evening in Mapo Hall of "Scenes from the Death of Jesus" taken from Miss Sayer's plays "The Man Born to be King". A scene was acted by each of the Ibadan branches as follows: Scene 1, The Denials of Peter (University College), Scene 2, The Trial before Pilate (Wesley College), Scene 3, The Road to Calvary (Melville Hall and U.M.C.), Scene 4, The Foot of the Cross (Melville Hall and U.M.C.), Scene 5, The Empty Tomb (U.M.C. with University College).

The play meant much cooperation and the giving up of time for internal practice and rehearsals together. To our disappointment Wesley College developed smallpox just two days before Good Friday and were unable to take part. We missed them a lot, but were able to make the play continuous even without them, and gave it to a crowded hall as we had arranged. As admission was free the audience was extremely noisy and difficult — no doubt, not unlike the crowd that witnessed the Crucifixion — but the players finally held them and I think we were all able to feel something of the majesty and dignity and victory of Our Lord as He triumphed over man's superficiality and hardness of heart and insincerity and cruelty. These who acted in these plays at least, learnt much from sharing in this way in our Lord's Passion.

Uganda

From J. Tombo ole Mbali, Sec. Makerere College :

... The activities of our Movement here have been mainly in the form of series of lectures culminating in short week-end conferences. Our speakers have been

drawn mainly from the local members of the Anglican Church. Some of them have been Tutors here at the College who have taken a keen interest in our Movement.

We have been holding our conferences in some of the local schools — whose staffs usually cooperate and participate in, or lead some of the discussions. These week-end conferences are particularly helpful for they are the major activities of our Movement that remain in memory for a long time after some of the formal evening talks have been largely forgotten.

The problems we have tried to understand through talks and discussions have been those that affect a young and transitional society which is what East Africans are at present. Our problems are those of a young church without any tradition to boost of. Many of our members come from rural areas which have just been touched by Christianity, while others speak in terms of conducting evangelical campaigns in areas where people have never heard the Gospel.

We have therefore concentrated on the problems that we, as young African Christians who have had better chances in education than most, are likely to meet...

Sweden

This summer the Swedish U.S.C.M. have invited 50 students from eight formerly warring nations of Europe to come together on Stjärnholm in Sweden.

From letter to delegates :

Dear friend,

When we invite you to the Stjärnholm Conference it is with the purpose that we may come together, students from several parts of Europe, to learn to know each other and to deal with problems common

to us all today. Our different experiences and views will give us a richer background for our discussions and help us to overcome the limitations of our own opinions.

We shall approach the problems from a Christian point of view, trying to find in what way Christianity is relevant to the situation in the world of 1948, with its political, social, and spiritual chaos. We believe that there is a need for Christian thinking in these matters, and that we can help each other to find the Christian answer to some of these difficult questions, such as we have met them in our own lives and in the lives of our nations. That is why the programme puts stress on common worship and Bible study.

During the Conference there will be only four main lectures. You may find this number small, but we think that students are too often lectured to, and are too seldom using their own brains. This should be a *working* conference, engaging all participants in active collaboration. The lectures are only to be an incitement to further discussion and you will probably find that the free time in the programme after lunch and in the evenings will be filled up with debates or just friendly chats during walks, or on the seashore. And after all it is the summer vacation! It is the results of these discussions, and of your group work in the different commissions which we shall try to sum up on the last day of the Conference, and which may become the positive outcome of our Conference, giving us perhaps some valuable hints for further thinking and practical work when we go home.

Hoping that the Conference will be richly blessed in this respect, and that you will all contribute to its success through prayer and active participation, we wish you all heartily welcome to Stjärnholm.

WORLD STUDENT RELIEF

The Seventh Report on Student Relief Activities, entitled "Give them the Tools" has recently appeared. It is much to be commended to the readers of this *News Sheet*, for its detailed account of the needs of students throughout the world, and the encouraging news of the expanding work of W.S.R. to meet these needs, as well as for the challenge it puts to the universities to continue and increase their efforts.

The following paragraphs are quoted from the latest report by Malcolm Adiseshiah :

"... W.S.R. occupied a unique position in Asia — particularly in the universities of the countries of S.E. Asia. Almost with the liberation of Burma, W.S.R. help and Miss Pothan's W.S.R. mission entered the country. "We cannot forget that you were the first outside help and agency that came to us, reminding us that we are not forgotten", said the Burmese university teachers and students to our delegates. And that is true for Indonesia, Viet-Nam, Siam, Malaya and India also. In face of the terrible needs that university students and professors face as a result of famine, floods, half-starvation, wars, occupation and isolation, W.S.R. is not only the first but almost the only world relief organisation operating in those countries..."

... In East Pakistan, terrible floods wiped out educational life and institutions in twelve districts. Again August 15th and the subsequent months saw a move-

ment of 6 million people between North India and West Pakistan — under conditions of rioting, panic and fear. 60,000 students and teachers who had crossed into India were without clothes, homes and any means whatsoever. Conditions in Pakistan were similar. In the midst of this appalling situation, the Indian I.S.S. Committee began an immediate vigorous all-India campaign, collecting blankets, clothes, food and books for the refugee students, set up a refugee student office in Delhi, undertook rehabilitation work among the students and teachers on behalf of the Government, set up schools, libraries and university centres in the refugee camp, and in the course of six months carried out a survey of the needs and conditions of university refugees. The W.S.R. gift of 2,000 dollars acted as a spur to the committee in initiating this vast movement of self-help...

... W.S.R. has opened up for Asia a whole series of new relationships and windows to the outside world...

... The W.S.R. Executive which at its Aarhus meeting last year surveyed the world student situation, laid down the general principle of equality of needs as between the three regions where we operate — Central and Eastern Europe, China, and the rest of Asia — distributing its budget for the current year in the proportion of 40 %, 40 % and 20 % with a view to a more accurate distribution according to need next year..."

FINDING A COMMON TASK

A Statement by the Delegates to the first meeting of the World Christian Youth Commission.

Thirty representatives of the World's Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations, the World's Young Women's Christian Association, the World's Student Christian Federation, the World Council of Churches (Youth Department), and the World Council of Christian Education met for ten days in July at Pont-Céard near Geneva to constitute this cooperative Commission which has arisen out of the Conferences at Amsterdam in 1939 and Oslo in 1947. One of the main objectives of the Commission is to manifest world Christian fellowship amongst youth.

"Full of high hopes and expectations, we met to form the World Christian Youth Commission and to consider 'Our Common Responsibility in the Secular World', which was the theme of our meeting. We knew that the task would not be an easy one, yet we hoped we would soon discover our basic unity. Some of us were caught unawares and felt a growing frustration in the early stages of the meeting because we were not prepared for the real struggle we experienced.

"Without pretending to make a complete study of the situation of youth around the world, our sense of urgency increased as we looked at certain of its aspects. We were aware of a growing secularization which often leads to scientific humanism or to nihilism. We also considered the wide influence of Marxist ideology and the rise of exclusive nationalism. As we discussed the difficulties in our task of Christian witness we spoke of the indifference and apathy of many nominal Christians, the tiny minority of Christians in Asia and Africa, and the increased hostility of non-Christian faiths. We realized the acute problems of cooperation between Roman Catholic and non Roman Catholic Christians, and our inability to secure the cooperation of some Protestant groups — all of which make Christian solidarity more difficult. We recognized with shame that we, our Churches and our Christian organizations, are often passive, care little for social justice, and fail to give total obedience to Jesus Christ. In face of all this we became acutely aware of the immediate need to struggle to unite the efforts of all Christians.

"However the process of our cooperation was found

to be completely impossible until we had reconsidered our fundamental Christian vocation. Each organization, stated the same purpose of leading young people to Christ, and helping them to grow in the Christian life. We also saw and appreciated the fact that towards this end we had used a rich variety of methods. Yet our failures are apparent. Too often we have made our methods ends in themselves, our faith is not living nor our thinking sufficiently articulate, our presentation of the Gospel has not been relevant or intelligible, and our divisions have denied Christ's message of love.

"As members of the World Christian Youth Commission, we searched in Bible study, prayer, and discussions, to know what the will of God might be for our movements. And, as Christians, united by our common allegiance to Jesus Christ, we have been led to see anew that our essential task is to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ, so that individuals may accept Christ as their Lord and Saviour, become active committed Church members with a vision of the world Christian community, and acquire a new sense of responsibility in their work and in society. In this conviction, we recognize that we must redirect all our activities to that end, so that we do not fall short of our ultimate responsibility.

"The simplicity of our Christian message did not hide the differences we found in our individual conceptions of evangelism and ecumenism. We felt real suffering in being confronted with disagreement at these points, and we urge our movements to give very special attention to these problems.

"In our fundamental concern to spread the message of Jesus Christ, we found agreement and purpose. Our one goal must be to keep before us at all times the vision that we have been led to see. Toward this end, we must find together the most effective Christian strategy. While constantly confessing our human inability ever perfectly to complete our task, we rely on God, as shown to us through Jesus Christ, to give power and strength. With this faith and hope, we press forward in obedience to His challenge, 'Go ye into all the world'."

PRAYERS

One Church, One Community.

Show us, O God, where each one of us has fallen short, and help us to be truly reconciled in love to all with whom we differ in our Christian groups. Strengthen the hands, O God, of all who work for Christian unity. Bring forth true repentance among us, to the end that we shall not rest until we are in truth one Body, united by thy Spirit. We pray not for our sakes, O Father, but that the world may believe, even as our Lord has taught us.

Amen.

O God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who by thy Holy Spirit hast brought men together in this one community, we ask that thou strengthen the bonds of true love and brotherhood among us. Take from our hearts and from thy whole Church the chains of prejudice. Where there is new life, increase its power, where there is deadness, awaken the members. Take us, O God, and use us, for the sake of Him who died that all might live, even Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(These prayers are taken with acknowledgment from the leaflet "That they all may be one" issued by the World's Alliance of Y.M.C.A.s and World's Y.W.C.A. for their Week of Prayer 1948.)